

## **Historic, Archive Document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



THOUSAND RATES  
—ON—  
**GRAPE ~ VINES**  
**SPRING 1911**  
**LEWIS ROESCH & SON, FREDONIA, N. Y.**

Per 1000	1 Year No. 1	2 Year No. 1	Per 1000	1 Year No. 1	2 Year No. 1
Agawam (Rog. 15)...	\$ 20.	\$ 28.	Lindley (Rog. 9).....	\$ 18.	\$ 25
Brighton .....	25.	38.	Lucile .....	60.	90.
Campbell.....	75.	110	Moore's Early.....	25.	38.
Catawba.....	18.	25.	Niagara .....	18.	25.
Concord .....	10.	16.	Pocklington .....	20.	30.
Delaware .....	22.	35.	Salem .....	20.	30.
Diamond .....	20.	30.	Vergennes .....	20.	30.
Duchess .....	38.	50.	Wilder .....	25.	38.
Ives .....	16.	25.	Worden .....	25.	38.

## What We Know of Grape Growing

By Lewis Roesch, Fredonia, N. Y.

The grape-vine is not at all exacting as to soil, it succeeds on the lightest sand and toughest clay, provided it is dry. Nor does it demand as much fertility as corn and wheat do, for best success. Moreover, it stands drought better than most any northern farm crop. It takes no long ladders to prune them, or pick the fruit, endangering life and limb, as does the apple; nor much stooping as with strawberries. Varieties and method of culture have been so much improved in the past forty years that good growers make more money now at one-half the price, than they did then.

The pruning is done during mild spells in winter. The tying with pieces of No. 22 annealed wire 5 inches long and at the rate of one acre per day. The cultivation is all done by horse labor, by the use of a gang plow, horse hoe and sulky cultivator. In case the vines need spraying, one person can do it very comfortably, spraying one side each of two rows,

by simply driving through the rows with the proper machine and material. One man can do all the work on 20 acres, except during harvesting, and he has time enough left over to devote to other business to pay for the extra help in harvest time. In sections making a specialty of grape growing, the marketing is very simple.

Buyers from the cities come to the stations and bid against one another for the fruit as it is brought in. In case the price offered is not satisfactory, they can be turned over to a grape union to be sold on the growers' account, or in any other way desired. In places where but few are grown, the grower has the advantage of even a better market and realizes a higher price, not only on account of the freight charges and wholesale dealers profit saved, but especially because the fruit is fresher and in better condition.

Grapes can also be kept fresh until

the holidays in ordinary storage and with refrigeration until spring. Besides they can be turned into unfermented grape juice, jams, jellies, etc., and sold at a good profit at one's own convenience. Canning factories gladly buy them when they can be obtained in sufficient quantities.

The planting of a vineyard is as simple as the starting of an orchard, with this difference, however, that inasmuch as vines are planted much closer than trees, use can be made of the plow in place of digging holes by hand.

### Selection of Varieties.

When we first became acquainted with American grapes and their culture, there were then already a few vineyards of the Concord in existence. But the most consisted of Isabella, Delaware, Catawba, Clinton, Diana and Iona, of importance in about the order named. Delawares and Catawbas are still grown to a considerable extent in a few favorable localities, but they, as well as the rest, have now practically disappeared elsewhere. In those early days many new varieties were annually introduced, only to drop out as soon as fairly tested; not so much for lack of quality, as for lack of constitution and vigor. **They could not compete with the Concord.**

### Principal Varieties in Cultivation Now.

Among the many hundreds of varieties that have been introduced from time to time, there are a few that stand out prominently, head and shoulders above all the rest; chief among them is

#### The Concord.

More than half of all grapes grown east of the Rocky Mountains and at least three-quarters of all grown for the market, are of this variety. It is quite sweet when fully ripe, of fairly good flavor (liked very much by some). But its great popularity hinges mostly on its great vigor, hardness and productiveness of the vine, on which account it can be produced and sold for less money than any other. Also because of its large and showy clusters of black color with blue bloom. Then it ripens at just the right season when the peach crop is about gone and the summer heat has abated.

#### Next Comes the Worden.

An earlier, larger, juicier and sweeter grape, equally as hardy, healthy and productive as the Concord, but very short in season. It is, however, a most excellent variety to start the market for Concords with. It looks and tastes like a very superior Concord, so much so, that the inexperienced take it for a Concord. Everybody should plant some of these and give the Concord a chance to ripen up well, while the Worden is being used and marketed.

**Moore's Early** is also an excellent early market grape. Very large, showy and fairly good. Not as rank a grower as the above named, but about two weeks earlier. It should be planted closer together.

#### Next Niagara.

This is a magnificent white grape. Very large and beautiful and of very good quality. A rank grower and great bearer, but neither as hardy nor as reliable as the Concord.

**The Lucile** also belongs to this class. None larger or finer in appearance. None as prolific or hardy.

The above we recommend planting almost everywhere for both domestic use and market.

#### The Following are the Next Best.

Each somewhat restricted as to localities and uses; **Diamond** and **Pocklington** are very large, showy and beautiful market grapes. Also very productive, but not equal to the Niagara in quality. Pocklington, however, is one of the hardest, while Diamond is earlier than Niagara. **Champion** also, is all right in every way, except in quality, which is rather poor. It is, however, one of the very earliest.

#### Varieties of High Quality.

Are the Rogers Hybrids, Agawam, Barry, Gaertner, Goethe, Herbert, Lindley, Massasoit, Salem and Wilder. Also Brighton, Catawba, Delaware, Duchess, Green Mountain, Ulster Prolific and Vergennes. The first, eighth and last six are also very good bearers. The rest had better be planted alongside of Catawbas, Wordens or Niagars to be fertilized, and on rather heavy loam, otherwise they may be disappointing in productiveness. The Catawba is a little too late in most sections of the North. Delaware and Ulster Prolific need pretty

close trimming. All in this last class, while of high quality (Lindley we call the best of all), have more or less foreign blood in them and are for that reason more subject to rot and mildew than those first named.

### Selection of Location.

The grape does love sunshine and must not be planted in the shade. A moderately elevated position where there is a free circulation of air and a chance for cold air to drain away, is also beneficial.

### Preparation of Ground.

Ground rich enough for corn or wheat is plenty good enough for grapes. If not, then fertilize as for other crops. Of commercial fertilizers 400 to 1000 pounds of bone dust and 300 to 500 pounds of muriate of potash or one ton of hard-wood ashes per acre are very good. On light and leachy soil use more potash or ashes, on clay land, less. Avoid the too free use of nitrogenous fertilizers.

Pulverize the soil thoroughly with plow and harrow to a depth of ten or twelve inches. As you do not have to replant each season, you can afford to do it well. Remember, "a good start is half the battle won."

### Planting.

The distance between the rows and vines depends on varieties chosen. If Concord or other strong growers, plant eight feet apart each way, or if ground is very strong, plenty and cheap, plant the rows nine feet apart and eight feet in the row. It gives more room to get through with double team, machinery and the grape truck.

Before planting, trim the tops of vines to a single cane and cut the roots back to 8, 10 or 12 inches. Never let them get dry while planting. Spread the roots out in a natural position and when well covered with mellow soil, tramp them down firmly. This is important. After which, finish covering without any farther firming of soil. On heavy ground, plant 8 or 10 inches deep; on light and loose soil, 12 to 15 inches deep. When completed trim the vines back to three buds above ground. It is well to mark each vine with a stake large enough to be seen when cultivating.

### The Trellis.

The natural trellises for grapes are trees and bushes and they very often perform remarkable stunts in growing and bearing on these, but artificial wire trellises do very well and the vines are certainly pruned, cultivated, and the fruit picked with much greater ease and comfort. To build a good substantial trellis for an acre, planted 8 ft. by 8 ft. apart, costs for materials approximately as follows:

250 posts and braces, 3 to 5 inches in diameter and 8 ft. long at 8c	\$20.00
600 pounds No. 9 steel wire at \$36.00 per ton,	\$10.40
3 pounds 1 1-2 inch staples at 4c,	.12
More or less according to season and locality.	

Dig holes three feet deep for the end posts. Select the largest for these and then plant them firmly butt end down and support them with a brace each. Point the other posts and drive them 2 1-2 feet deep into the ground every third vine. If planted in straight rows each way the vineyard looks so much better. Then stretch two strands of wire along these posts. The lower one two feet from the ground, the upper 4 1-2 to 5 feet. Wrap the wire around the end posts and fasten them to the others with staples.

### Pruning.

For commercial grape growers the Horizontal Arm system of pruning and training is for several reasons the most advantageous. It is well adapted for strong growing varieties, simple and easily learned and does not require much tieing. This is done by growing a stem up to the first wire, then an arm each way along said lower wire. These arms are to be permanent and are to be pruned back just long enough to reach similar arms from the adjoining vines. At the first tieing they are to be twisted around said lower wire and securely tied. From these permanent arms are to be grown about 6 annual fruiting canes, some 12 or 15 inches apart, trimmed up long enough to reach the top wire and there tied. Every season at pruning time these are to be cut off and new ones brought up that started from the bases of the old ones. If the vine is too weak for so many fruiting canes, a part or all of them may be cut back to three bud spurs until strong enough to stand more. The stem may be grown the first year,

the arms the second, and part or all of the upright fruiting canes the third year. Since the permanent arms are twisted about the bottom wire, it follows that after the first season they are so firmly attached to it that they require no further tieing. All the tieing necessary is that of the annual fruiting canes to the top wire.

You can crowd a vine into growth with severe pruning, thorough culture and manuring. The sap can be guided into any cane or set of canes desired, by carefully tieing them up, as fast as they grow and pinching the tip ends off all others.

#### Cultivation.

The first season, potatoes or other low crops may be grown between the vines, but nothing tall enough to shade them. Keep the ground mellow and free of weeds all summer. The second season there will be no room for other crops. In the spring when the vines start to grow, plow away from them, but not more than 3 or 4 inches deep, and follow immediately with a horse hoe, clearing the ground under the vines. Cultivate until the weeds get to be two inches high under the vines. Then plow up against them and cover the weeds. Cultivate again and repeat the same process until the grapes begin to ripen, every year. Two plowings, however, are usually sufficient.

#### Yield.

A fair average of Concats and other market varieties should net not less than 4 tons per acre. We have ourselves grown 7 tons per acre and have seen a yield of 18 tons. We know the average product is but 2 or 3 tons, but that is for the same reason that the average product per acre of corn and wheat the country over is but one-half as much as it ought to be. Too many poor, slack and unbusiness like growers.

#### Domestic Use.

The grape vine is also useful on farms, village and city lots for growing grapes for home consumption and to give away to friends, the sick, etc.; for shade, screens, wind-breaks, covering arbors and unsightly buildings, stone walls, fences, etc. It is such a fast and luxurious grower. In addition to all that, it repays the careful cultivator with an abundance of healthy and appetizing fruit. Of course the pruning and training has to be modified to suit the particular conditions in each case, but still on the same general principles as laid down above, viz: permanent stems, arms and annual fruiting canes consisting of only about one-quarter of the new wood growth.

#### Grapes a Cheap but Valuable Improvement.

As soon as planted, grapes enhance the value of a place many times over what they cost. Planting a vineyard is a good way to make a place saleable. There is not a farm or village lot advertised, but what mentions fruit as an inducement, if it has any to boast of. Three years ago, 1 year Number 1 Concord Vines sold for \$30.00 per 1000. This season we offer

#### Concord Vines for \$10 per 1000.

Last fall we harvested a very fine and abundant crop of vines and can afford to, and do offer them remarkably low, as well as very good; especially so in a season when apple and plum trees are soaring at \$25.00 per 100 and upwards, peach trees at \$14.00 and other stock in proportion. Our vigorous, healthy and fibrous rooted vines offer a great opportunity to make a very profitable improvement, cheaply.

For references and testimonials, see 3d cover page of catalogue.